

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**EPIPHANY 5 - CELEBRATING ILLUMINATION**  
Reverend John R. Hanson  
February 6, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

Janet Hanson, Musician

INTRODUCTION

*We are challenged to decide what to do with God's invitational and confrontational grace. On the one hand, we are called to receive grace in our own lives and enjoy the freedom it brings. On the other hand, we are challenged to become participants in God's gracious work as God calls us to follow God's alternative way of being and share that way with those around us. May our worship this week challenge us to receive both God's grace and God's call to be agents of that grace in the world.*

CALL TO WORSHIP (10:30)

PSALM 100 KIDS & J CREW

CALL TO ORDER ANNUAL MEETING OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH (10:30)

THEME AND VERSE

***"Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."***

**We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord, with all our heart! We will sing your praises before all creation and rejoice in your steadfast love! You have created us O Lord and made us for yourself. In you we become everything you have made us to be!**

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE DORCHESTER'S CHAPLAINS

HYMN

*"Eternal Father, Strong to Save"*

Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
Who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:  
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Savior, whose almighty word the winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked upon the foaming deep, and calm amid the storm didst sleep:  
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood upon the chaos dark and rude,  
And bid its angry tumult cease, and give, for wild confusion, peace:  
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, all  
trav'lers guard in danger's hour  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them where-so-e'er they go;  
Thus evermore shall rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God is good.

**All the time.**

*GOSPEL: Luke 5:1-11 Jesus preaches on the shore of the Sea of Galilee and when the crowds press in on him, he steps into a boat and asks Peter to put out from the shore a little. Then he tells Peter to go out and drop his nets to catch fish. Peter complains that the disciples have worked all night and caught nothing, but he agrees to go anyway. When they catch a great catch, Peter responds in repentance, and Jesus calls him to follow. So Peter, James, and John leave their nets and follow Jesus.*

Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." <sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that

their nets were beginning to break. <sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. <sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" <sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; <sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon,

"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." <sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION All the time.

**God is good!**

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Let us prepare ourselves to encounter God.

**Holy Lord, we are not ready to meet you. Your glory is too bright, your mission is too hard. We doubt instead of have faith, we act confused instead of following, we thrill with your promise of forgiveness but lose our vision when we return to the tasks at hand. We hear your word to forgive us, Lord. May we be amazed at the work you have called us to complete.**

Our hope is in Christ Jesus. For his sake our sins are forgiven. In him the veil of God's glory is lifted and we are transformed from one degree of glory to another. By the power of the Holy Spirit showing the mercy of God we are now engaged in the ministry that brings glory to the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

## BIBLE PRESENTATION

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

"From the beginning..."

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**The buzz of the world interrupts our lives and fills our ears. The complaints of others settle in our mind and cloud our vision. The cries of the poor, the oppressed and the outcast pierce our hearts. Fill our hearts, fill our eyes, fill our ears with your love, O God. Create in us a new heart and a living spirit. Amen.**

### HYMN

*"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"*

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation  
I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

***No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging;  
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?***

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing;  
It sounds and echoes in my soul, how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roar, I hear the truth it's living.  
What though the darkness round me close, songs in the night it's giving.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing;  
All things are mine since I am his, how can I keep from singing?

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### READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

*In the year King Uzziah dies, Isaiah has a vision of God's glory in the temple where he is cleansed, and he responds to God's call.*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

<sup>5</sup>And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. <sup>7</sup>The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

READING: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *Paul reminds the believers of the Good News that Jesus died, was buried, and was raised from the dead on the third day. Jesus was seen by Peter and the twelve and over 500 followers. He was also seen by Paul, who considers himself the least of the apostles and that he is what he is by the grace of God.*

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred

brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

HYMN

*“Beautiful Savior”*

Green # 518

Beautiful Savior, King of creation, Son of God, and Son of Man!  
Truly I'd love thee, truly I'd serve thee, light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands, robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, he makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight, bright the sparkling stars on high;  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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SERMON *“In the midst of this Gospel story, we witness creation and promise being lived out. Christ’s message is to us and is also his message to a world in conflict, atoned, resurrected, and restored. Life comes from God alone!”*

HYMN

*“Be Thou My Vision”*

Blue # 776

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
Thou my great father and I thy true son, thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not nor man's empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
Thou and thou only, be first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven when vict'ry is won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun;  
Heart of my own heart whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING PRAYER OF THANKS

**On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. May God's love be reflected through the ministries we offer by these gifts of our church, of our mission, and of our people. Amen.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**The good news is that we are not only enlightened by the light of Christ, we are cleansed and we are forgiven as believers in him! Thanks be to God for this gift of bread, wine, forgiveness and the reality we have of a new life to live! Amen.**

### BENEDICTION & SENDING

Go now and speak of what you have seen of God's glory. Do not cling to the holy moments when heaven overshadows you but as the Lord lives, listen to Christ and follow him from the places of revelation into the places of mission.

**In Jesus' name, amen.**

May God shine the light of glory into your hearts. May Christ be with you and never leave you. And may the Spirit renew the image of God within you.

**Amen! We go in peace to love and serve the Lord!**

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**Worship, as an action, continues to change.**

**Use this space to guide your thoughts as the Spirit may lead you.**

**Use this time to center your distractions in order to help activate your worship.**

In all of this week's readings there are two strong themes that emerge. The first is that God calls women and men to follow God's alternative way of being, and to share the Gospel with others. In Isaiah, we read the famous call story. Paul reminds the Corinthian believers both of the Gospel that has been preached to them, and of Paul's own calling in sharing that message. And in the Gospel reading from Luke, Peter has his life-changing encounter with Jesus in which he is called to become a "fisher of people."

The second theme that stands alongside this one is that of grace. Isaiah's message is not a comfortable or particularly comforting one, but it does include an assurance of God's mercy and grace. Paul proclaims very strongly his conviction that he is what he is only because of God's grace, and even in Peter's call there is the awareness in Peter of his unworthiness, and yet the wonderful grace of Jesus as he basically ignores Peter's confession and calls him into service.

Looking at trends in the global Church today, one could be forgiven for thinking that the primary calling and mission of any local church is to maintain and grow that church. And growth is defined by bigger buildings, more people in worship services, and more money in the bank. Success in ministry is often defined by how well those who are "called" perform against these three metrics. Evangelism, then, becomes about getting people to come to church, not about inviting them to embrace the alternative way of Jesus. Worship becomes about creating an attractive performance each week so that people will keep coming, and will invite their friends, rather than a place of discipleship where we hear God's call again and are sent into the week to live the way of Jesus more consistently. Is it any wonder that the church is in decline?

According to our Scriptures this week, the measure of a "church" is not its buildings, its denominational affiliation, its faithfulness to certain doctrinal or political ideologies, or its size and wealth. The measure of a church is on the way it integrates into the community in which it is placed, and how it becomes the hidden influence for grace, bringing greater care to the broken, more accessible and sustainable resources to the needy, more companionship to the lonely, and more unyielding opposition to the forces that would rob any human being of a healthy life which Jesus sought to bring.

How can we allow the Scriptures to call us again into being this kind of community within the wider community in which God has placed us?

*John van de Laar at [sacredise.com](http://sacredise.com)*